

### Amendment To The Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 7, and cancel claims 8 and 9 without prejudice.

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Claim 1 (amended): A method of authenticating information communicated between a first facsimile communication device and a second facsimile communication device via a communications network, comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving input data and generating facsimile information in a first format by said first communication device from said input data;
- b. processing said input data to compute an encrypted checksum;
- c. convolving said facsimile information with said encrypted checksum data to produce convolved data;
- d. decrypting, at said second communication device, said encrypted checksum ;
- e. computing a checksum of said input data received at said second communications device; and
- f. alerting a recipient at said second communication device in the event of a mismatch between said checksum data computed in step (e) and said decrypted checksum data in step (d).

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said first communication device is a digital facsimile apparatus.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said second communication device is a digital facsimile apparatus.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said first communication system is a computer system comprising communication means with communication software installed on said computer system.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein a database system is communicatively coupled to said second communication device.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said second communication system is a computer system comprising communication means with communication software installed in said computer system.

Claim 7 (amended): The method of claim 26<sup>1</sup>, further comprising the step of:  
configuring an e-mail system for receiving and displaying an alert message to said recipient along with said received input data.

Cancel Claims 8 and 9.